

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in the application. Claims 11 and 17 are canceled, claims 1, 9, and 16 are amended, and new claims 22-23 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-10, 12-16, and 18-23 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 4 of the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12-15, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brueske in view of Younis. In paragraph 5, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 8, 11, 16-17, and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

### **Claim 20**

In the PTOL-326 form, the Examiner indicated that claim 20 was rejected. On pages 3-4, the Examiner stated that he disagrees with the Applicant that claim 20 is allowable. Nevertheless, the final office action does not provide a formal rejection of claim 20 that identifies the grounds for that rejection. If this Amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, the Applicant requests clarification as to the exact grounds for rejecting previously presented claim 20.

### **Claim 1**

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 17. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 17 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 2-8 and 18-21 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

### **Claim 9**

Claim 9 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 11. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 11 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 9 is allowable. Since claims 10 and 12-16 depend variously from claim 9, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

### **New Claim 22**

New claim 22 is equivalent to previously pending claim 3 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 22 is allowable.

### **New Claim 23**

New claim 23 is equivalent to previously pending claim 21 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 23 is allowable.

### Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-21 under Section 103(a) have been overcome. In addition, new claims 22-23 patentably define over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

### Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to **Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.**

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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